

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, FR

SUBJECT: UNEMPLOYMENT IN FRANCE

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 9177; (B) PARIS 30045; (C) PARIS
A-535, OCTOBER 17, 1974

1. REFTEL A REPORTS THAT STATISTICS PUBLISHED BY EC
COMMISSION SHOW UNEMPLOYMENT IN FRANCE FOR OCTOBER 1974
AT 630,000, REPRESENTING 3.8 PERCENT OF LABOR FORCE.
FIGURE FOR OCTOBER 1973 IS GIVEN AS 451,900, OR 2.7 PER-
CENT OF LABOR FORCE.

2. PLEASE NOTE FOLLOWING POINTS RE ABOVE FIGURES:

(A) IN PRECISE TERMS THE ABSOLUTE FIGURES CITED
ARE SAME AS THE NUMBER OF PERSONS ENROLLED WITH FRENCH
NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AGENCY AS NOT WORKING. THESE ARE
THE ONLY STATISTICS ON UNEMPLOYMENT IN FRANCE AVAILABLE
ON MONTHLY BASIS. HOWEVER, FOR REASONS INDICATED IN
REF C (COPY BEING POUCHED TO US MISSION EC BRUSSELS)
THEY DO NOT MEASURE ACCURATELY TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT.

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(B) FIGURES OF 451,900 FOR OCTOBER 1973 AND 630,000 FOR OCTOBER 1974 ARE NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED. THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED FIGURES ARE RESPECTIVELY 408,900 AND 560,000.

(C) PERCENTAGE FIGURES CITED IMPLY TOTAL FRENCH LABOR FORCE OF ABOUT 16.7 MILLION, WHEREAS LABOR FORCE, IN FACT, AVERAGED 21.6 MILLION IN 1973 (MOST RECENT OFFICIAL ESTIMATE) AND WAS PROBABLY ABOUT 21.9 MILLION AS OF OCTOBER 1974. WE BELIEVE CALCULATIONS CITED IN REFTTEL A MUST HAVE ASSUMED THAT STATISTICS ON WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS ONLY REPRESENTED TOTAL LABOR FORCE.

3. BECAUSE OF CURRENT INTEREST IN MONTHLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WE HAVE DEVELOPED METHOD FOR MAKING ROUGH MONTHLY ESTIMATES AS NEARLY COMPARABLE AS POSSIBLE TO U.S. CONCEPTS. THESE ESTIMATES ARE BASED ON MONTHLY STATISTICS ON NUMBERS OF PERSONS REGISTERED WITH EMPLOYMENT AGENCY. METHODOLOGY EXPLAINED IN REF C. OUR ESTIMATES PUT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT AT 2.1 PERCENT OF LABOR FORCE IN OCTOBER 1973, AT 2.9 PERCENT IN OCTOBER 1974 AND 3.2 PERCENT IN NOVEMBER 1974. ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR 1973 (MOST RECENT OFFICIAL ESTIMATE) WAS 2.1 PERCENT.
RUSH

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